



News From

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For Immediate Release

Thursday, January 11, 2001

DOYLE & LEGISLATORS ENDORSE GOVERNOR PATAKI'S *CO-STAR* PROPERTY TAX CUT PROGRAM

New initiative provides \$230 million in local tax relief statewide

County Executive Jack Doyle today stood with Majority Leader A. Michael Hanna and other county lawmakers to endorse Governor Pataki's Co-STAR county property tax cut program. Co-STAR, modeled after the existing STAR school property tax cut program, would save the average Monroe County senior citizen an estimated \$350 in county property taxes annually.

"In Monroe County we've held the line on property taxes for an unprecedented nine straight years and now Governor Pataki has offered the Co-STAR program as another way to give county residents even more relief from the burden of property taxes," said Doyle. "I support the Governor's Co-STAR program and urge all of Monroe County's state delegation to make this sweeping tax relief initiative law by voting with the Governor."

During the past six years, Governor Pataki's administration has cut taxes in New York State by \$100 billion – the most in the nation. Co-STAR would save a combined 700,000 seniors and farmers statewide \$230 million by providing seniors with a tax rebate equivalent to a \$50,000 exemption, and farmers a \$30,000 exemption, from the full taxable value of their home, for county tax purposes. The plan would begin in 2002 and be implemented over five years for seniors and three years for farmers.

Unlike the STAR program, Co-STAR will provide eligible Monroe County seniors and farmers a direct rebate check from New York State. The rebate checks would be issued to eligible seniors and farmers after county property taxes are paid.

Legislature Majority Leader A. Michael Hanna also announced a memorializing resolution he has submitted to the Monroe County Legislature urging the county's State Legislative Delegation to support Co-Star.

"Governor Pataki has been a great partner to local officials by providing tax relief at the state level," said Legislature Majority Leader A. Michael Hanna. "Our success at holding the line on taxes in Monroe County has been made even stronger by the Governor's continued efforts to cut taxes throughout the state and we all need to support his Co-STAR initiative."

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In addition to the estimated \$350 annual property tax savings for county senior citizens, eligible Monroe County farmers would save an estimated \$210 annually as a result of Co-STAR.

“The existing STAR program has been incredibly well received by property taxpayers across Monroe County and I know that the Co-STAR program will bring even more needed relief to our taxpayers,” said Doyle. “In Monroe County we have provided leadership in the fight for property tax relief at the local level and the Governor continues to provide great leadership in this fight at the state level as well.”

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